Abstract of the Disclosure

A re-selection method reduces time needed to switch a packet data session from a first packet data channel in one cell to a second packet data channel in another cell. While the mobile station is engaged in a packet data session on the first packet data channel, it monitors the channel quality of control channels in adjacent cells. During the packet data session, the mobile stations reads at least part of the broadcast information on the adjacent control channels before the re-selection decision is made and identifies potential re-selection candidates. When certain predetermined criteria are met, one or more of the adjacent control channels are identified as potential re-selection candidates and the mobile station switches to a new packet data channel in the selected cell. Because the mobile station has previously read the broadcast information in the selected cell, it can immediately acquire service of the new packet data channel.